

Application No.: 10/501,746
Office Action dated: November 24, 2006
Response to Office Action dated: February 7, 2007

REMARKS

This Amendment and Response is submitted in reply to the Office Action dated November 24, 2006, in which the Examiner:

indicated claims 17-20 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form;
objected to an informality in claim 1;
rejected claims 11-13 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,964,985 to Giuffrida; and
Examiner rejected claims 11-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,994,799 to Yao et al.

The current Amendment cancels claim 17 and amends claims 11-16 and 18-20, leaving claims 11-16 and 18-20 pending. Claim 11 is the only independent claim.

The Examiner indicated claim 17 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Although Applicants respectfully disagree with the rejection of Claim 11, for the purpose of expedient allowance of the present application, Applicants have substantially incorporated the recitations of allowable claim 17 into independent claim 11. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 11 and dependent claims 12-16 and 18-20 are allowable, at least pursuant to the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter.

Regarding the objection to claim 1, Applicants believe that the Examiner intended to object to claim 11, as claim 1 was cancelled by a Preliminary Amendment filed simultaneously with the National Stage entry papers. Applicants have amended claim 11 to correct the term "lest" to read "least," in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion, and request that the objection be withdrawn.

Having addressed or traversed each and every objection and rejection, Applicants respectfully request that the objection and rejections be withdrawn, and claims 11-16 and 18-20 be passed to issue.

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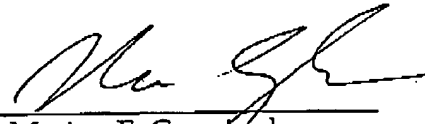
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Applicants respectfully submit that nothing in the current Amendment constitutes new matter.

Applicants believe no fees are due in connection with this Amendment and Response. If any fees are believed necessary, authorization is hereby granted to charge any such fees to Deposit Account No. 13-0235.

Respectfully submitted,

By



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